

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 56th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND COMMERCE

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN JOHN WITT**, on January 21, 1999 at
8:06 A.M., in Room 201 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. John Witt, Chairman (R)
Sen. Tom Keating, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. William Crismore (R)
Rep. Dick Haines (R)
Sen. Linda Nelson (D)
Rep. Joe Tropila (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Summer Alger, Committee Secretary
Bob Tallerico, Legislative Branch
Doug Schmitz, OBPP

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing: HB 2 - Dept. of Agriculture
Executive Action: HB 2 - Dept. of Agriculture

Handouts were passed around to committee members from **Roger Lloyd**
on the Differences from the Executive Budget & Base as of 1/21/99
and Biennial Comparisons of HB 2 Appropriations: 1999 and 2001
Biennia (executive request).

EXHIBIT (jnh16a01) and **EXHIBIT (jnh16a02)** respectively.

DP 3002

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Gary Gingery and **Bob Tallerico** commented on this decision package.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 2 - DEPT. OF AG - AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
DIVISION

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 5}

Motion/Vote: REP. TROPILA moved that DP 3002 BE ADOPTED.
SECONDED by SEN. NELSON. Motion carried unanimously.

DP 3003

Sen. Keating asked **Pam Langley** if she gets many complaints from the amount of permit fees, to which she replied no. The **Senator** continued with some more comments. **Chairman Witt** inquired about Canada and the court cases with chemicals (pesticides). **Director Ralph Peck** commented on the issue.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 2 - DEPT. OF AG - AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
DIVISION

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 17.6}

Motion/Vote: SEN. NELSON moved that DP 3003 BE ADOPTED. SECONDED by SEN. KEATING. Motion carried unanimously.

DP 3004

Harold Clark, President, MT Mint Growers Association, commented on this decision package.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 2 - DEPT. OF AG - AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
DIVISION

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 18.8}

Motion/Vote: REP. TROPILA moved that DP 3004 BE ADOPTED.
SECONDED by SEN. NELSON. Motion carried unanimously.

DP 3005

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DIVISION

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 25.1}

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Motion/Vote: SEN. KEATING moved that DP 3005 BE ADOPTED.
SECONDED by SEN. CRISMORE. Motion carried unanimously.

DP 3006

Rep. Haines asked Gary Gingery if there were many vehicles in the fleet that do not get used in the winter time.

Rep. Tropila questioned Mr. Gingery on the miscellaneous operating costs. Bob Tallerico replied also.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 2 - DEPT. OF AG - AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
DIVISION**

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 37.2}

Motion/Vote: SEN. CRISMORE moved that DP 3006 BE ADOPTED.
SECONDED by SEN. KEATING. Motion carried unanimously.

DP 3007

Bob Tallerico commented on this decision package while referring to Table 1 (Noxious Weed Administration) on page C-179 of the Legislative Budget Analysis 2001 Biennium: Agency Budgets, Vol. 1, January 1999, LFD.

**The Legislative Budget Analysis (LBA) 2001 budget book will not be referred to as an exhibit, however, budget information from other sources will be noted as exhibits.*

Sen. Keating inquired as to the price of the laptops they are buying, and Sen. Nelson had questions about the Noxious Weed Advisory Board. Sen. Keating then questioned Mr. Gingery on the balance of the Noxious Weed Administration account, and Sen. Crismore asked about Tansy Ragwort and how it is spreading.

Director Peck stated that \$600,000 in noxious weed grants to communities could be one-time-only.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 2 - DEPT. OF AG - AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
DIVISION**

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 15.9}

Motion/Vote: SEN. CRISMORE moved that DP 3007 BE ADOPTED.
SECONDED by SEN. KEATING. Motion carried 5-1 with Tropila voting no.

DP 3008

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 2 - DEPT. OF AG - AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
DIVISION

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 18.7}

Motion/Vote: SEN. NELSON moved that DP 3008 BE ADOPTED. SECONDED by SEN. CRISMORE. Motion carried 5-1 with Witt voting no.

Bob Tallerico discussed the Proprietary Rates and the following LFD Issue on page C-187 of the LBA 2001 budget book. Director Peck commented also. Sen. Keating inquired as to how big the leaf-cutter bee industry is.

No action needed for the proprietary rates.

Rep. Tropila commented that he was not pleased DP 3007. Sen. Keating moved to reconsider action on DP 24 (tabled for lack of a second). Further discussion ensued on DP 24 by the committee.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 2 - DEPT. OF AG - AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
DIVISION

{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 2.7}

Motion: SEN. CRISMORE moved DP 24. SECONDED by SEN. KEATING.

Motion/Vote: SEN. NELSON moved that DP 24 BE AMENDED TO REDUCE THE 1.00 FTE TO .5 FTE. SECONDED by REP. HAINES. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion/Vote: SEN. CRISMORE moved that DP 24 BE ADOPTED AS AMENDED. SECONDED by SEN. KEATING. Motion carried 4-2 with Tropila and Witt voting no.

Break @ 9:17am *{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 5.5}*

HEARING ON HB 2 - DEPT. OF AG - AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Will Kissinger gave a brief introduction, then **Bob Tallerico** discussed funding on page **C-189** and the LFD Issues on page **C-190** of the LBA 2001 budget book.

Rep. Haines asked questions concerning the Ag Development issue on **C-190** with **Mr. Tallerico** and **Director Peck** responding. **Sen. Keating** had questions on the division proposed budget on page **C-189**. **Mr. Tallerico** commented on Personal Services of the Statewide Present Law Adjustments table on page **C-191** of the LBA 2001 budget book.

DP 3

Chairman Witt asked why this decision package was not under New Proposals, and **Randy Johnson, MT Grain Growers Association**, commented along with **Harold Clark, MT Mint Growers Association**.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 2 - DEPT. OF AG - AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 25.5}

Motion/Vote: **SEN. NELSON** moved that **DP 3 BE ADOPTED. SECONDED** by **REP. TROPILA**. Motion carried unanimously.

Sen. Keating questioned the 25% increase in the Ag Development base with **Rep. Haines** chiming in on that point. **Sen. Nelson** then asked **Director Peck** what the increase would be with all of the year 2005 increases.

Sen. Keating encouraged a committee discussion of Table 4 on page **C-191** of the LBA 2001 budget book. **Sen. Nelson** inquired about personal services while **Director Peck** replied that the big issue here is the State Grain Lab. **Sharon Campbell, Bureau Chief, MT State Grain Lab**, commented also.

DP 5001

Bob Tallerico commented on the LFD Issue concerning this decision package. **Will Kissinger** gave a brief description of the request. **Sen. Keating** asked about travel and commented that he would like to accept the LFD recommendation of reducing the use of general fund for this.

Rep. Haines moved DP 5001 with the LFD recommendation and drop MTPRRIME computer. **Sen. Keating** commented and **Rep. Haines**

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reiterated that he wanted to make a funding change and drop the MTPRRIME computer. **Sen. Keating** commented again, asking not to restrict the MTPRRIME costs now. **Rep. Haines** withdrew his motion, then **Mr. Tallerico** commented.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 2 - DEPT. OF AG - AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION**

{Tape : 3; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 2.8}

Motion/Vote: SEN. KEATING moved that DP 5001 BE ADOPTED WITH THE REDUCTION OF GENERAL FUND BY \$3,328 IN FY2000 AND BY \$1,808 IN FY2001, AND HAVE THE DIVISION FIND THE REST OF THE FUNDING ELSEWHERE. SECONDED by REP. HAINES. Motion carried unanimously.

Will Kissinger discussed Ag in Montana Schools funding. **Sen. Keating** asked if he were bringing up an adjustment to the administration budget, and **Sen. Nelson** inquired about the disappearance of this money. The department gave the committee a handout which addressed this issue.

EXHIBIT (jnh16a03)

Mr. Tallerico questioned the agency on the hand carried new decision package. **Director Peck** replied that it should be a correction to the base budget. The money will be there, but does not reflect in the base.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 2 - DEPT. OF AG - AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION**

{Tape : 3; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 6.1}

Motion/Vote: REP. TROPILA moved THE ADJUSTMENT FOR AG IN MT SCHOOLS FUNDING BE ADOPTED. SECONDED by REP. HAINES. Motion carried unanimously.

DP 5002

Leonard Schock, Chairman, MT Wheat and Barley Commission, commented, and **Mr. Tallerico** referred to Table 1 on page C-179 of the LBA 2001 budget book, stating that there would be an 87.4% reduction from FY99 as compared to FY01 in the Wheat and Barley Research Account. **Will Kissinger** replied that he has new figures (which he handed out) due, in part, to fee increases.

EXHIBIT (jnh16a04)

Sen. Keating asked why it was so necessary to have such a large ending balance. **Leonard Schock** and **Jim Christianson** both replied.

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Sen. Nelson questioned the additional travel during times of low prices and what they expect to accomplish, and also what the price of travel has been for them during the last biennium. **Sen. Keating** and **Chairman Witt** both inquired additionally about Wheat and Barley Grants, with **Fred Elling, MT wheat and Barley Commission**, replying.

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DIVISION

{Tape : 3; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 21.9}

Motion/Vote: **SEN. KEATING** moved that DP 5002 BE ADOPTED.
SECONDED by **SEN. NELSON**. Motion carried unanimously.

DP 5003

Will Kissinger gave a brief description of this decision package while **Bob Tallerico** discussed the LFD Issue, recommending that the committee wait on this one. **Doug Schmitz** replied, recommending that the committee move-on with it. **Mr. Kissinger** asked that the revenue estimates be based on expenses, then **Sen. Keating** continued the discussion with questions and comments on the requested budget.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 2 - DEPT. OF AG - AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION

{Tape : 3; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 0}

Motion/Vote: **SEN. CRISMORE** moved that DP 5003 BE ADOPTED.
SECONDED by **SEN. KEATING**. Motion carried unanimously.

DP 5004

{Tape : 3; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 1.4}

Motion/Vote: **SEN. NELSON** moved that DP 5004 BE ADOPTED. **SECONDED** by **SEN. KEATING**. Motion carried unanimously.

DP 5006

This decision package was already acted on and carried.

DP 5007

Discussion began with a request from **Sen. Keating** to find a way to save some general fund, which **Director Peck** replied that the Growth Through Ag program would be a good place to look.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 2 - DEPT. OF AG - AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION**

{Tape : 3; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 6.6}

Motion/Vote: SEN. KEATING moved that DP 5007 BE ADOPTED LESS THE GENERAL FUND MONIES. SECONDED by REP. HAINES. Motion carried unanimously.

DP 5008

Chairman Witt asked **Director Peck** where the money for this request would come from, while **Sen. Keating** questioned how much is in the base.

Randy Johnson, MT Grain Growers Association, commented on this decision package, as did the rest of the committee and **Harold Clark**.

Rep. Tropila asked the agency what **Sen. Keating's** motion, of \$10,800 of general fund money, would do to the program. **Director Peck** replied that they would have to terminate some employees. **Sen. Keating** replied, also, that he was not taking anything out of the base - they get the present law adjustment except for the \$5000/year of general fund money. **Doug Schmitz** commented and the **Senator** reiterated that the motion would add \$6000 to the base, just without any additional general fund money.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 2 - DEPT. OF AG - AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION**

{Tape : 3; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 26.4}

Motion/Vote: SEN. KEATING moved that DP 5008 BE ADOPTED LESS GENERAL FUND MONIES BY \$10,800. SECONDED by REP. HAINES. Motion carried 4-2 with Crismore and Tropila voting no.

New Proposals:

The new proposals are also included in HB 252. **Sen. Nelson** inquired as to the status of that bill, then **Sen. Keating** stated that any motion made would be a contingency, so no action was recommended on these decision packages. February 24, 1999

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Bob Tallerico summarized the LFD Issues and Table 5 on page **C-195** of the LBA 2001 budget book. **Chairman Witt** called to table this portion until next meeting, then opened the meeting to discussion.

Other than from committee members, comments were heard from **Mark Peterson, MT Pea and Lentil Growers Association; Harold Clark, MT Mint Growers Association; Margie Thompson, Ag in MT Schools; Randy Johnson, MT Grain Growers Association; and Fred Elling, MT Wheat and Barley Commission.**

Doug Schmitz recommended to committee to take action on the 4 New Proposals. **Bob Tallerico** added that by no action, the decision packages fall out of HB 2 as if they had failed. **Rep. Haines** commented that they do not want to loose them, then **Mr. Schultz** replied that the only caveat is that the package would be on its own, not in HB 2. **Sen. Keating** commented that the subcommittee is to weed out all of the little stuff, so it is better to let the full appropriations committee deal with the new proposals. Therefore, there is no need for action on any of this during the next meeting. **Mr. Tallerico** added that with no action, this will show up as a reduction on the status sheet.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:53 A.M.

REP. JOHN WITT, Chairman

SUMMER ALGER, Secretary

JW/SA

EXHIBIT (jnh16aad)